Remarks

Reconsideration is requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 32 is objected to as dependent from a cancelled claim. Claim 32 is amended to depend from pending claim 30, and withdrawal of this objection is requested.

Claim 15 and dependent claims 16-22 stand rejected as allegedly indefinite. Claims 15 and 16 are amended so that proper antecedent basis is provided, and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-17, 19-25, 27-36, and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Putzolu et al., "The Phoenix Framework: A Practical Architecture for Programmable Networks," IEEE Communications, March 2000 (pp. 160-165), referred to hereinafter as "Putzolu." This rejection is noted by the Office action as being under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), but Putzolu is not a patent or patent application, and cannot be a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Clarification is requested. In the following response, it is assumed that 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) is intended.

A Declaration accompanying this Amendment concerns conception of the invention prior to Putzolu and diligence from a time prior to Putzolu to the filing date of the subject application. In view of prior invention by the present inventor, withdrawal of Putzolu as a reference is requested. Upon removal of Putzolu, claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-17, 19-25, 27-36, and 38 are properly allowable.

Claims 5, 12, 18, 26, and 37 stand rejected as allegedly obvious from a combination of Putzolu and Porras et al., U.S. Patent 6,484,203 ("Porras"). This rejection is traversed. Claims

5, 12, 18, 26, and 37 are properly allowable as dependent from allowable base claims, and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In view of the preceding, all pending claims are in condition for allowance and action to such end is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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